

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total area under rubber in the different States of North-East as on 31.3.1996 is given below:

	(In hectare)
i) Tripura	20,761
ii) Assam	10,179
iii) Meghalaya	4,105
iv) Manipur	1,400
v) Mizoram	913
vi) Nagaland	1,523
vii) Arunachal Pradesh	49
Total	38,930

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Rubber Board has been taking up exploratory surveys in the North Eastern Region since 1970. The area suitable for rubber cultivation in that region, is estimated as under:

	(In hectares)
i) Assam	2,00,000
ii) Tripura	1,00,000
iii) Meghalaya	50,000
iv) Nagaland	50,000
v) Other N.E. States	50,000
Total	4,50,000

(d) The Rubber Board has been assisting small growers to set up processing facilities by supplying rollers and other estate equipments at concessional rates, assisting construction of smoke houses by providing technical and financial assistance in addition to special assistance being given to tribal/SC groups for community processing.

The Board has also been providing technical and financial assistance to State Public Sector Undertakings engaged in development of rubber plantation in the region, besides promoting voluntary organisations of rubber growers to take up community processing and marketing

Supply of Mulberry

3125. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to supply five

thousand kgs. of mulberry yarn per month to Sualkuchi in Assam as reported in "Assam Tribune" dated February 21, 1997 under the caption "Mulberry yarn for Sualkuchi"

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other assistance is likely to be provided to Sualkuchi for development of sericulture ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit of a High Powered Team to Guwahati (Assam) on 17.2.1997 and field visits on 18.2.1997 it has been agreed to extend the scope of support to handloom weavers in Sualkuchi area (Assam) by arranging supplies of 5000 kgs. of Mulberry Silk Yarn per month by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd. to M/s. the Assam Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Ltd. (ARTFED) against demand to be placed by M/s. ARTFED.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government for the development of sericulture, the Central Government through the Central Silk Board has established a Demonstration-cum-Training Centre at Sualkuchi to demonstrate the improved techniques of cocoon processing and Silk reeling to the reelers. Besides a special demonstration of the new technologies and machines developed for reeling of muga cocoons is being conducted by Silk Technological Research Training Institute, Bangalore. In addition a post-cocoon Technical Service Centre has also been set up to provide technical advise to silk reeling, spinning and weaving units including dyeing, printing and wet processing of silk fabrics at Sualkuchi.

I.M.F. and World Bank Assistance

3126. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has been receiving I.M.F. and World Bank assistance for the different developmental projects;

(b) if so, the number of projects which have been funded by the I.M.F. and World Bank in India since 1991 and in different States, State-wise; and

(c) the amounts of funds involved in those projects year-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) IMF loans are for balance of payments support and are not given for development projects, while the World Bank loans are given for development projects. The numbers and amount of agreement signed for State-sector projects year-wise is given as statement.